

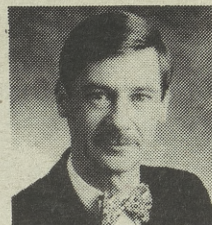
# the latest ISSUE

volume <sup>4</sup>~~two~~  
issue eight

FREE

mid-december  
ninety-two

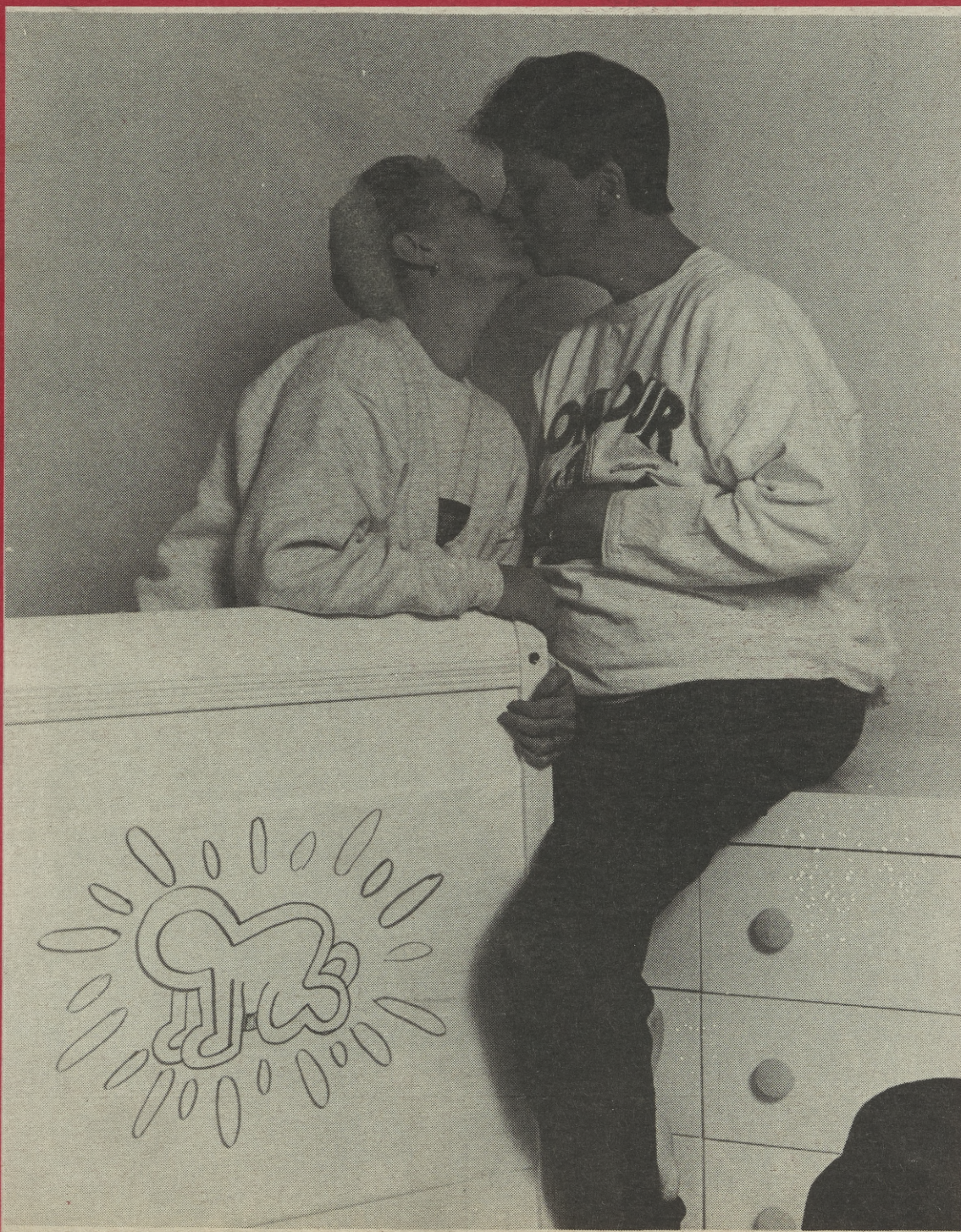
Channel 40 Commentator  
Angers AIDS and Gay  
Activists With a "Joke"  
*see story on page 9*



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## Living With Children in Our Lives

See Story on Page 10



Pam and Barb Lockrem-West are expecting thier first child in January.



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# !!! really I MUST SAY!

## Farewell, Dear Friend

**O**n December 14, 1992, Michael J. Patterson, co-owner of the latest ISSUE, gave up his weakening hold on our world and slipped quietly into the next.

Michael was born in California and raised in rural Sacramento county. Even as a child he excelled at whatever he set his mind to, from raising sheep for 4-H to participating in student council in high school.

After graduating, Michael moved to Davis where he earned a degree in graphic arts. But it was after college, in San Francisco, that Michael found his real home. He drew energy from the frenzied pace of the city – the bars, the baths, and the gay rights movement. Michael pursued his career as a free-lance graphic artist during the day and his reputation as a wild act at night.

While staying briefly in Sacramento in 1985 Michael met and befriended Kate Moore and later Sara Myers. The three became coffee drinking buddies (as Michael gave up anything stronger in 1986), travel companions, and confidantes. In 1989 the three, with help from Glenn and Diana Dunn, made a longstanding dream come true by founding the latest ISSUE.

Michael's natural creativity, keen sense of design and insistence on perfection created the look of our paper – a look that won the Gay and Lesbian Press Association's award for best overall design in 1991.

In recent years, Michael became a globetrotting photographer, traveling through Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the United States in quest of the perfect shot. An optimist and an adventurer, he was an avid Giants fan and a skydiver who hated to fly. Michael had a wicked sense of humor, saying just weeks ago that as long as he could laugh once a day at someone else's idea of fashion, he had reason enough to go on living.

It is with overwhelming sadness that Michael's friends and family wish him farewell. His parents Ellen and Byron, sister Sue, brother Dan and his women Kate and Sara are incredibly sad to see him go. His many San Francisco friends including Jean Clawed, Carol, Libby, Wally and the group, and Arthur and the games players share in their sadness.

Although Michael enjoyed many achievements in his lifetime, it was his hand in creating the latest ISSUE that he was proudest of. Wherever he is now, we hope he feels assured that we'll do our best to keep the rules straight, the borders simple and the typeface clean. Farewell, dear friend. You may be gone, but our love for you will never be.

## Shame on You, Bob Cook

Dear Editor,

Recently Bob Cook, the news director of Channel 40, attacked Bill Clinton's commitment to lift the ban on gays and lesbians in the military.

He cried that gays in uniform would result in the rapid spread of AIDS throughout the armed services.

What he didn't seem to realize is that other countries allow gays in the military. One being Israel whose army is constantly seeing action.

The true threat isn't gays and lesbians in the armed forces but the threat of ignorance. The worst ignorance is when self-loathing, homophobic gays like Bob Cook turn on their own community.

We gays and lesbians had a leader of the ultra conservative, family values coalition during the Reagan Era who came out and lost his position and who could forget the notorious Roy Cohen who was Joe McCarthy's right hand man during the 50's.

It seems that we gays and lesbians can now add Bob Cook to that list of shame.

Roberto Morales

## The Good and Bad of SAF

Dear Editor,

In response to Stacy Selmant's article about the new leadership at the Sacramento AIDS Foundation, I congratulate the efforts of Executive Director Charles McNeil to revitalize an organization that I took pride in serving. Unfortunately, I believe my words may be misconstrued out of context and it is important to correct an omission.

What was left out of the article was the recognition that there were many individuals that did a tremendous amount of work and effort on behalf of SAF and the community it serves. More specifically, SAF board members Dr. Neil Flynn, Stan Hadden and John White come to mind as demonstrating their leadership. The article also missed my emphasis on poor

management of the agency's structure, staffing and direction. The wealth of human resources that I was thrilled to join in 1987 was quickly being depleted by 1991 when I left. In my last years at SAF I saw a disquieting "de-homosexualization" and distancing from the bulk of our client base in the scramble for funding.

External influences had their role in the difficulties. Two Georges and a big Peter (Messrs. Bush, Dukemajian and Wilson) refused to take the proactive steps needed. Funders and bureaucrats intimidated by sensitive HIV issues and true needs coupled with a faltering, irrational health care system inhibit the impact of everyone involved in the fight against AIDS.

Compassion, competence and positive energy were exhibited by many clients, volunteers, and staff at SAF (and board members too). Unfortunately, these qualities were not equally distributed within the organization (nor any organization for that matter). Every day the numbers get bigger (cases, clients, deaths)

and as you're of trying to tread water around a shrinking iceberg of resources, the best are likely to get a little frayed. And yes, the result was dysfunctional – it didn't function well.

I support the efforts of Charles McNeil and all my friends with the Sacramento AIDS Foundation to raise awareness of the real impact HIV is having on the community. I hope they succeed. With a new, progressive and pro-active president (who finally returned the Ray boy's call for help and isn't afraid to say "gay") I hope there is a more positive outlook ahead. No, not a cure soon; and yes, the numbers will continue to get worse; but I hope a decision to quit running from the problem and see a more logical and effective approach to some issues. I continue my personal efforts to sound the alarm in Contra Costa County.

One thing is clear. This epidemic is not going away. We need to get out of crisis mode and think long term coping skills. If you are HIV positive and don't know it or aren't taking care of yourself: watch out. The services you may some

*continued on page 4*





## LETTERS

continued from page 3

day need may not be there when you need them. Prepare and empower yourselves. Become part of the fight and don't leave it to others

**Joe Chase**

P.S. For the record I was the Men's Health Educator at SAF, not Director of Education as cited in the article.

## Bob Cook is Homophobic

**Dear Editor:**

Sacramento's News & Review deserves to be commended for its November 25 editorial condemnation of homophobic remarks made by a local television commentator Bob Cook on November 14 regarding President-elect Bill Clinton's commitment to lift the ban on gays and lesbians in the military.

Bob's commentary is perplexing when considered in the light of information that has circulated for years in Sacramento's gay community indicating that he is "family." If he wishes to remain "closeted," that is his prerogative; however, he should refrain from using homophobic diatribe as a ruse to conceal his sexual identity.

Please make known our community's sentiments by joining with the Sacramento News & Review in condemning Bob Cook's homophobic comments.

**Thomas Weaver**

## Bisexuals Should be Included

**Dear Editor,**

Re: The article in the Mid-November issue regarding whether or not bisexuals belongs in the Gay Rights Movement.

I say yes. Though bisexuals need their own support groups as gay men and lesbian women need and have their own separate support groups, we can also work together to reach our common goals (as Ben Franklin said, "We can either hang together or hang separately").

I'm convinced people are also born bisexual - as I am (about 50% or - 10%, depending on the mood I'm in), as well as being born straight or gay / lesbian. For me it is not an intermediate "step between the closet and being out as a homosexual." I'm 60 now and have been bisexual since childhood. If I ever was going to be completely gay, I would have been by now!

It would be a help for gay/lesbian organizations to include "bisexual" in their name if they do welcome us bi's. I was hesitant to attend the gay/lesbian group at my church for that reason, so I asked - would I be accepted as a bi? They answered yes and were surprised that I thought I wasn't welcome and at my suggestion added "bi-sexual" to their name.

If anyone asks me, I'll tell them I'm bisexual. But, I'm not ready to "shout it from the house tops."

**E.B. - Citrus Heights**

## Cook Should Think Before He Speaks

**B**ob Cook, news director and commentator of Channel 40 has the worst idea of humor imaginable. Especially for a gay man.

In his Nov. 14 commentary, Cook attempted to use humor to draw attention to the military's discriminatory ban on gays.

Some of the outrageous comments he made in the name of humor were, "Allowing homosexuals into barracks, on bases and serving on board US Navy ships could create a serious health threat." and "It really comes down to one basic medical fact and that is the primary way AIDS is spread." (See text of the commentary in the article on page 9.)

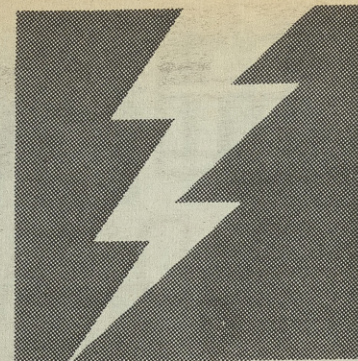
KFBK's Christine Craft named Cook "Bonehead of the Week" for his comments, and Cook responded by insulting all who disagreed with his idea of humor and went on to use another insensitive statement to make his point. "As for being named Bonehead of the week by someone of Christine Craft's caliber, well that's akin to receiving the fine dining award from Jeffery Dahmer."

The visual image of a homosexual mass murderer just adds to the perception of gays being insane and unable to function in society.

When asked about the insensitivity of his statement, Cook could only reply, "It never occurred to me."

It is no wonder Channel 40's news is the lowest rated in Sacramento.

Cook's responsibility to the community at large, is to think before he speaks. It's his job as a commentator, as news director and as a gay man to use his position to educate his viewers about AIDS and the gay community.



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## LETTERS!

The latest ISSUE welcomes letters on any subject. Be sure to include your name and phone number for verification. We will not print your name if you wish to remain anonymous.



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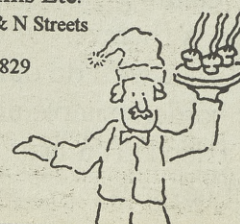


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# AROUND TOWN

## AIDS Vigil "Celebrates Life and Hope"



The staff of the Center for AIDS Research and Education on the steps of the Capitol.

by Stacy Selmants

In the crispness of a recent evening, a small group who had lost loved ones to AIDS gathered in a "Celebration of Life" on the Capitol steps, their flickering candles warding off the darkness.

The candlelight vigil, attended by approximately 150 people, was held on December 1, World AIDS Awareness Day, and featured brief speeches from Channel 13's Joyce

Mitchell, CARES Medical Director Neil Flynn, and Assemblymember Phil Isenberg (D-Sacramento). A proclamation in honor of World AIDS Day, signed by Mayor Joe Serna,

also was presented.

Flynn, one of Sacramento's foremost AIDS physician/advocates, spoke about the slow progress in the last decade in the fight against AIDS. In the areas of public understanding, treatment and prevention, Flynn said, the score is "Virus- 1, Us- 0."

"Another B-1 bomber crashed the other day," Flynn lamented, "And we'll somehow find the millions to buy another bomber, but not to send money to prevent the spread of AIDS in Africa, where there is no

money for treatment or prevention."

Isenberg tried to bridge the distance between the AIDS community and the general public by admonishing the (predominantly gay) crowd to remember, "People with AIDS are human, and we must bear witness to their humanity. We all exist on this planet together."

The vigil proceeded from

the Capitol steps to the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament on K Street, where short prayers and songs closed the event. The Cathedral's Father John prayed for the "tough that heals, the words that comfort."

The priest also urged the crowd to "Pray for a day when AIDS services are no longer necessary."



## Clinic Fire Raises Questions and Fear

by Ken Locke

Shortly after 1 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 29, a fire spread from one room to the attic of the Pregnancy Consultation Center, on Alhambra Blvd. Abortion rights advocates suspect that the fire was set by members of a group calling themselves The Lambs of Christ.

According to Jody Muller, chairwoman of the Sacramento Area National Organization for Women (N.O.W.), Lambs of Christ members have burned abortion clinics in Redding and elsewhere in California.

Murray Lewis, a member of the Christian Action Council, is one of the people who regularly picket outside the clinic, praying out loud from a bible and telling women "not to kill your baby." In response to charges that people from his organization may have been responsible for the fire, Lewis said, "They are obviously jumping to conclusions for which they have no facts. I don't know who did this or how or even if it was arson."

Although abortion opponents denied any responsibility for the fire - which caused extensive damage to the attic and roof and heavy water damage inside - some expressed open satisfaction with the clinic's fate. "Any time a place that kills children burns down is great," shouted Lee McAulay, whom Sacramento Area Coalition Against Operation Rescue

core member Christine Learmar described as "a very violent and pushy women. She will actually go and start pushing women when (the women) are trying to get inside the clinic."

On the Monday following the fire, fire investigators concluded that the fire was deliberately set. Sacramento Fire Department spokesperson Craig Wastrous said investigators termed the blaze's circumstances "suspicious," and believes someone used a flammable liquid to ignite the fire - which moved from a counseling and audiovisual room, off a back parking lot, into the attic and through the roof. Wastrous estimated damage at about \$175,000, but clinic founder Pax Beale expected costs to be much higher. Beale vowed to reopen the clinic soon.

Before this fire, doctors at the 21-year-old clinic were performing more than 100 abortions a week, including rarer procedures for women with pregnancies in the second trimester (typically 13 to 22 weeks). As of November 30,

*continued on page 12*

## Court Cases Look Good to Overturn Ban on Military Gays

by Steve Bistransky

The suit involving Navy Petty Officer Keith Meinhold directly challenges the military's anti-gay policy.

According to Lynn Strawbridge, a founder of the Twin Spirits Veterans Association, "the Meinhold case will be the one that cracks the anti-gay directive."

The case against the Pentagon is currently being heard in the District Court in Los Angeles. Meinhold hopes the courts

find the military's actions unconstitutional thus reinstating him as a Petty Navy Officer. In an interview with the latest

ISSUE, Meinhold said that he feels that in a way he has already won his legal case against the Navy.

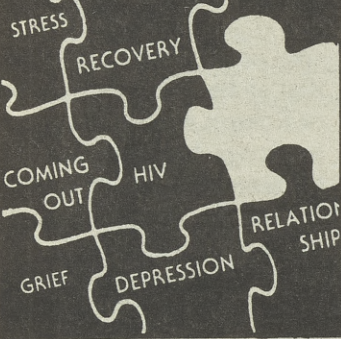
Pending disposition of the case, presiding Judge Terry J. Hatter ordered a temporary reinstatement of Meinhold's job as sonar instructor at Moffett Naval Air Station.

"That fact that I am still in the Navy in my old job, and that the Navy has not fallen apart," Meinhold said, "means that the Defense Department and the Department of the Navy can and will cope with these chang-

*continued on page 12*



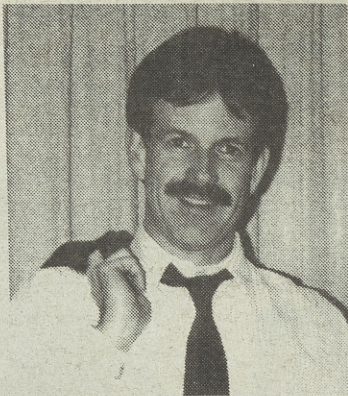
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# Obituaries

**Brian C. Thoreson**  
2/10/47 - 11/12/92

Brian arrived in Sacramento in 1985, and is best remembered as being one of the friendliest, best looking bartenders this town ever knew. He was part of the original crew who opened the Buffalo Club when it first went gay. After four years at the Buffalo Club, Brian moved to Santa Barbara with his lover, whose work relocated him there.



Eventually, Brian's HIV condition escalated and he lost both his sight and hearing simultaneously.

Brian faced those consequences bravely, and continued to lead a very fulfilling life. He took up painting, and with the help of a sighted guide, memorized the color order of his chalk which made it possible

for him to paint. The award winning works he created were absolutely incredible. To think a blind person created them was even more amazing.

Brian is survived, remembered, and will always be loved by his fellow Buffalo Club crew, and many friends in Sacramento. He spent his last years living in Alabama with his loving mother Irene, and his lover of many years, Joe.

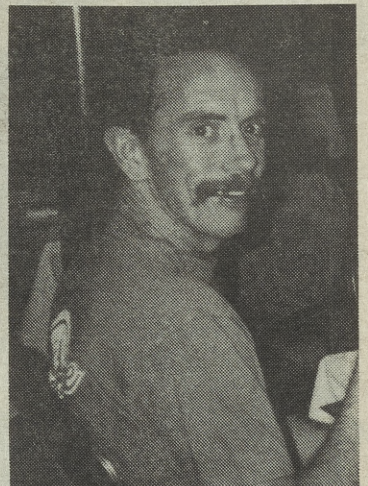
Though blind, he clearly saw the beauty of life.

Though deaf, he resolutely heard the laughter and happiness around him.

Throughout adversity, he was strength and hope for those who loved him.

In death he will live in our hearts and memories.

**James Michael Graham**  
8/4/50 - 12/6/92



Jim left his body peacefully after a year-long decline with AIDS. His ashes will rest alongside those of his mother, Marian, in Cameron, Missouri where he entered this life 42 years ago.

Jim is survived by his father, Paul, and sister Paula.

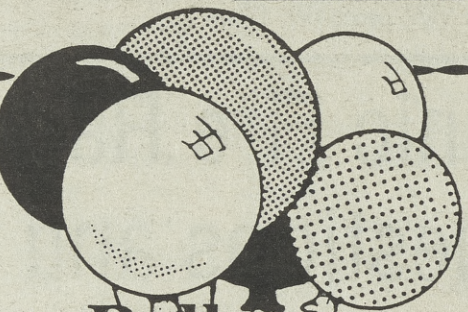
Four of his local friends, Jerry Stowe, Mike Kelly, Bob Leet and Michael O'Neil, got to say goodbye to him at San Francisco's V.A. Hospital two days before he died. The dementia didn't stop him from recognizing those last familiar faces.

Jim will be missed in Sacramento, where he made many friends in the 12 years he was here. He worked in various office jobs and as a state employee. For the last several years, Jim provided home health care to others who needed his help.

While he was stationed in Germany during his 4-year hitch with the Air Force, Jim traveled with his parents throughout Europe.

Be at peace, dear brother.

A memorial service will be held in the side chapel at St. Francis Church by Brother Ponchie on Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m. Friends may donate to the charity of their choice in Jim's memory.



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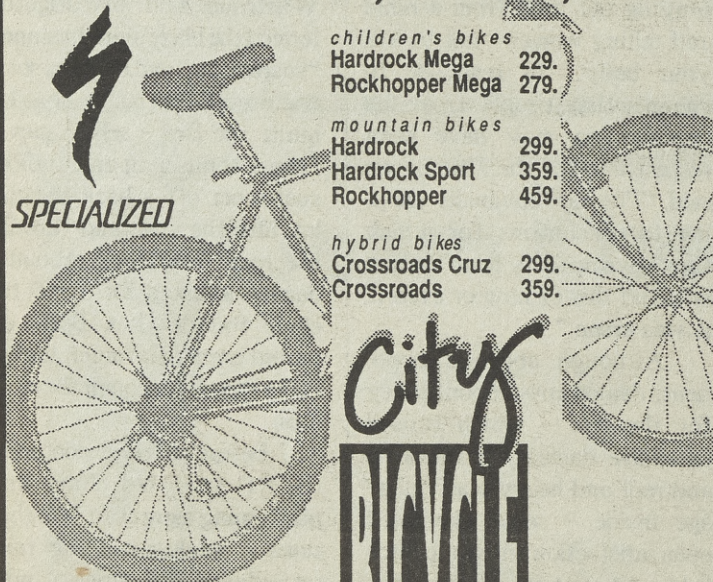
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# Censorship Threatens Sacramento Cable

by Michael R. Gorman

A task-force has been assigned to study Sacramento Cable's programming due to complaints about some shows depicting sexual violence, nudity and homosexuality.

On Oct. 7, Janet W. Gross, a woman from Fair Oaks, sent a letter to the board of directors of Access Sacramento which is responsible for channels 17 and 18, the community access and public access channels in Sacramento. She protested the content of a show she had "stumbled" upon on channel 18. The show is called "Dinosaurs" and was produced by Doug Dwyer. The piece includes a scene of two men making love, shown only from the waist up, and a rape scene, also with little nudity but lots of suggestion. Gross called the video "morally destructive pornography" and "perversion." She suggested that perhaps the next step will be shows on "pedophilia and a 'how-to' guide for IV drug users."

In a rebuttal to the complaint, producer Dwyer wrote, "My concern is that forums be

freed from people restricting what others will watch and, perhaps, from what some will create. Again, we don't need this kind of bullying. Talent needn't be driven away as it begins to bloom."

Complaints were also made about a rape scene in the video "The Bed."

In response to an investigation by the Sacramento Metropolitan Cable Television Commission, Access Sacramento has appointed an independent task force to study the legal and social implications of controversial programming, and to what extent Access Sacramento officials may exercise control over the content of the programming they air. The task

force will study the legal definitions of "indecent" and "obscenity" and how those standards apply to cable access. Former mayor Ann Rudin will head the task force. Its report will be presented to the commission in February. The group welcomes input from the public.

While the issue is being studied, Access Sacramento has decided to air all adult oriented shows after 11 o'clock pm. They will use as their temporary standard the more restrictive "indecent" standard imposed upon network television. According to a spokesperson for Access Sacramento, the gay talk show "Being Gay Today" will not be affected by the temporary rules.

Access Sacramento Board Member Craig Powell stated at the last commission meeting, "The board members don't want that stuff on either. Let me restate that. They haven't made a definite finding on those two ["Dinosaurs" and "The Bed"]. They don't want indecent programming on. "Bed" and "Dinosaurs" would likely be banned if we had an indecency standard."

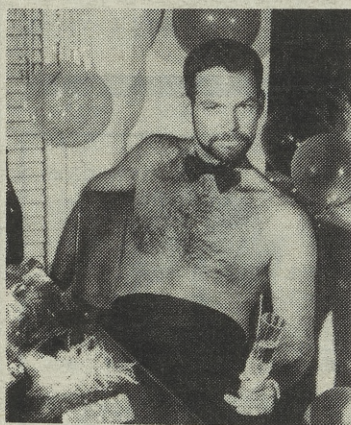
People interested in serving on the Access Sacramento Board of Directors may contact Karen Moody, director of Operations and Personnel, at 456-8600. The Sacramento Metropolitan Cable Television Commission may be reached at 440-6661.

## Benefit Calendar Available Now

After a year of contests, photo shoots and printing hassles, the AIDS Benefit Bare Chest Calendar is on sale all over town.

Randy Gray, whose idea it was to do a calendar depicting the best chests of Sacramento, got the idea when he was purchasing calendars for Christmas presents from Under One Roof in San Francisco.

He spotted a calendar in which the proceeds of all the



George Foxx, Mr. January.

sales went to AIDS Agencies in San Diego. So if San Diego can do it why not Sacramento?

The idea was presented to Jim Gawronski, owner of the Wreck Room, and was met with much enthusiasm. Contests were held monthly for one year and a 13th contest was held for the calendar cover model. Contestants received bar tabs for 1st and runner-up supplied by Jim of the Wreck

continued on page 10

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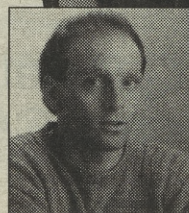
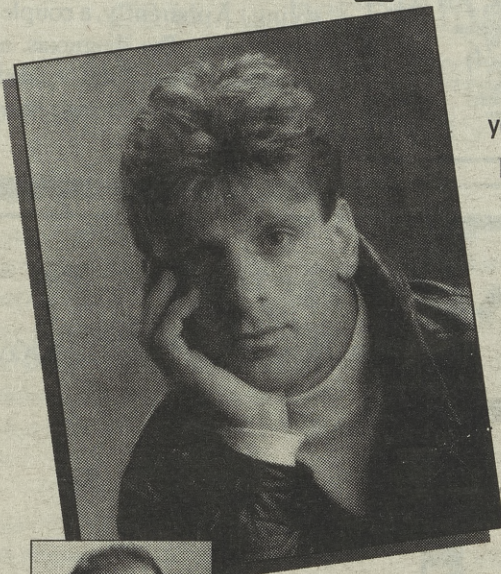
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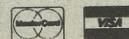
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# There's No Such Thing as Insurance Anyway

by Charlie Aitken

Each year I'm mailed a calendar from my insurance company. I like the old style calendars: the two inch thick wall hangers with the date printed big and bold on each tearable sheet. I like them because only one date is visible at a time—today's date. I only need to worry about the present, the past is in the waste basket and the future is hidden behind today's black and white sheet.

But, this year's calendar—that's rapidly thinning—is all screwed up. The insurance company has attempted to improve on an already perfect design, by printing cute little comments in the lower right corner of each date sheet. The new calendars have reminders that read: "Two more days till

the weekend!" or "Sixty-two shopping days left." or "Tax time is up ahead." I hate the insipid little comments.

Today, when I tore yesterday's date away, the calendar read: "Thanksgiving is just around the corner!" There was something about the juxtaposition of "Thanksgiving"

and "around the corner" that reverberated in my head. The vapid calendar quip reminded me of Kevin—who had lived around the corner—and of a Thanksgiving we spent together, several years ago.

I was probably eleven or twelve years old when I met Kevin. He was a painter—a starving artist. My best pal's parents were artists, and Kevin was one of their friends, so when he moved into a studio apartment around the corner from my house, my best friend Daniel and I often paid him unexpected visits. Because Dan and I loved to paint and draw, it was a great thrill to go to Kevin's place. Unconcerned with supplies or tidiness, he would set us up with a table and materials in the corner of his apartment, and allow us to paint with him.

My parents liked Kevin, and our impromptu visits

evolved into paid art lessons. Kevin was really dedicated to his art, and he squeezed out a meager subsistence from the occasional sale of his work, so when my mother insisted that he work for her at the nursery school, he eagerly accepted. He had become part of the family.

Kevin dedicated his life to art, and the cruel trick is that the ensuing death was considered—by the "gods of the art world"—validation of his work.

Recently, I have realized that Kevin was the first gay person I ever knew, and the first—of several—I've known, to die from the AIDS virus.

About two years after working for my mom, he moved to New York. Fed up with Sacramento's lack of interest in art, and confident in his painting, Kevin packed up and split for the Apple. He worked in the bath houses and painted scenes from the opera. After four years of dedication and struggle, he learned that he was dying. Apparently, a couple of years after the diagnosis, and numerous near fatal episodes, interest in his painting sharply

increased. He was a hit.

Later that year, Kevin returned to Sacramento with a triumphant Autumn show of his Opera series, at the then Himovitz/Solomon. I think he wanted to be with his family and say his good-byes. He dropped by our house on Thanksgiving.

Warming himself near the floor heater, Kevin displayed an alarming brand of unspoken frankness. Even my grandfather, who was uniformed and uninvolved, understood. There was nothing to say. He showed me the beautifully hand carved cane that assisted his fragile locomotion, and we talked about Puccini and Chagal.

I was so pissed.

Cruel God! Cheapskate! Sardonian universe!

I know the fundamentalists of my generation will argue that it is divine justice. Pointing to a Faustian bargain, the sophomoric new order sells wolf-tickets like: "But, he was a homosexual, God punishes sin." Bullshit. What does sin have to do with it?

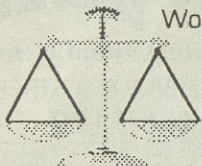
Kevin dedicated his life to art, and the cruel trick is that the ensuing death was considered—by the "gods of the art world"—a validation of his work. It's tuppence that's been thrown back to him as remittance for the trials he's undergone. Job would understand. Poverty, disease and death in exchange for an instance of recognition. God doles out chumpo change. Ask Job about his new wife and his new kids.

I'm going to throw away the silly insurance calendar. There's no such thing as insurance anyway. I think I'll paint awhile. The weather is turning cold. I must remember to use less Linseed oil in the fixative medium.

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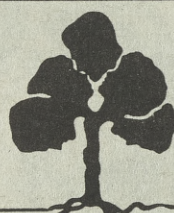


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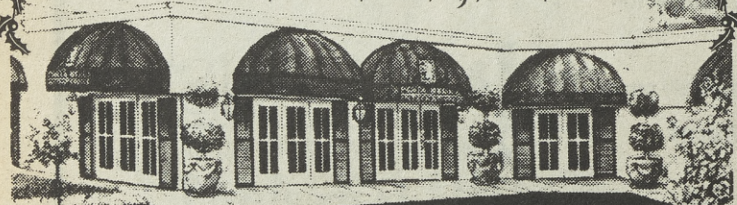
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# Bob Cook Comes Out to Clear Up Joke

**Commentary, November 14, 1992, Channel 40:**

"I can certainly understand why the Navy is refusing to allow gays to wear the uniform of their country. So many problems would arise. Let's look at this from the Navy's point of view. Imagine for example the redecorating the Navy would have to undertake. All that battleship grey would simply have to go, it doesn't match anything, and there's nothing stylish about those Navy uniforms. And of course there's the issue of AIDS. There's no question that the deadly disease has been spreading through America's gay community for the past ten years or so. Allowing homosexuals into barracks, on bases and serving on board U.S. Navy ships could create a serious health threat.

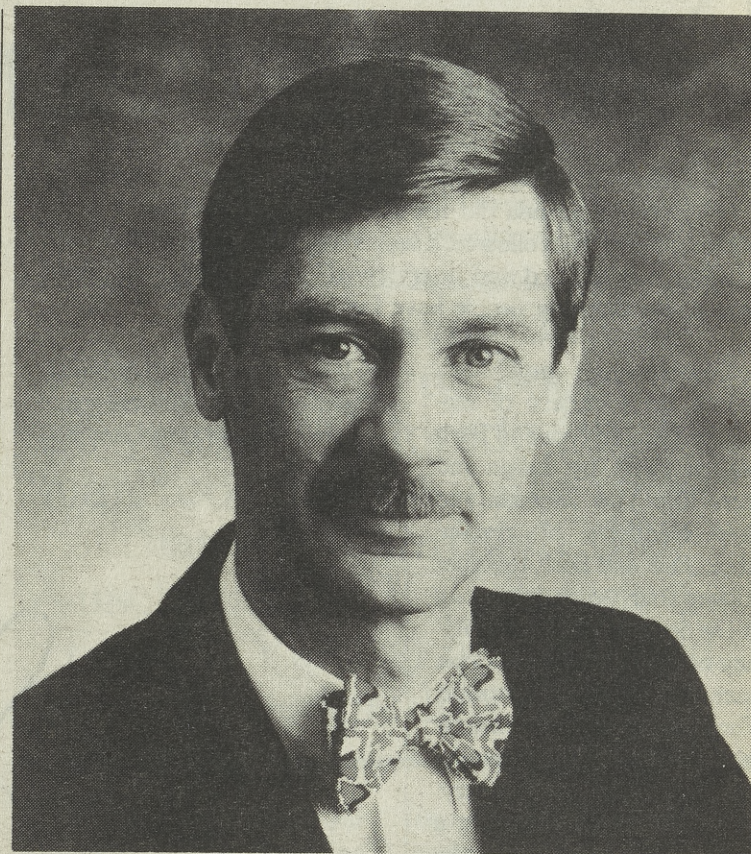
It really comes down to one basic medical fact and that is the primary way AIDS is spread from one individual to another. We all know how this disease is spread. Imagine a fleet of ships arriving in the Bay Area and releasing gay seamen into San Francisco. The mind boggles. And those are the straight facts."

**Follow Up, FM 102:**

"A friend of mine called the other morning to tell me that Christine Craft, local radio talk show host, named me bonehead of the week for a tongue in cheek commentary I did about gays in the Navy. Now anyone with half a brain who heard or saw that commentary knows that the comments were meant to demonstrate the incredibly ridiculous stand taken by the military. Anyone who took that commentary seriously is seriously in need of professional help.

As for being named bonehead of the week by someone of Christine Craft's caliber, well that's akin to receiving the fine dining award from Jeffery Dahmer. Anyone who knows me, who watches my segment on Fox 40 with any regularity knows that I frequently use sarcasm to show how really silly our world can be. Those of you who watch also know my views on discrimination of any kind, including the Pentagon's homophobic based restrictions.

I had no idea this topic was such a sacred cow. I'm referring to the military's policy now, not Christine Craft."



**Bob Cook, news director and commentator for Channel 40**

**B**ob Cook, news director and commentator for Channel 40, enraged Sacramento's lesbian and gay community with his November 14th commentary about gays in the military.

Many listeners found the flippant tone of the statement, which began by portraying gays to be concerned only with the color of their uniforms and the decor aboard ship, to be offensive and inflammatory, and were aghast at Cook's justification for banning gays from the military to prevent the spread of AIDS.

When KFBK radio talk show host, Christine Craft, voiced her objection to the commentary on the air, Cook responded by adding insult to injury. On his 7:00 a.m. radio program on FM 102, Cook dismissed Craft's concerns by saying, "Anyone who took that commentary seriously is seriously in need of professional help." He continued, "As for being named bone head of the week by someone of Christine Craft's caliber, well that's akin to the receiving the fine dining award from [homosexual, mass murderer and cannibal] Jeffery Dahmer."

In a recent interview with the latest ISSUE, Bob Cook was asked why he felt he could joke about AIDS and have people think it was funny. He responded that in the 5 or so years that he has been doing

commentary, he has joked about just about everything from Alan Cranston's cancer to the United Way. "Using humor in commentary tends to make the point without the sting," Cook

wrote, "...your comments indicated a disturbing ignorance both of the lesbian/gay community and of AIDS." The real truth, though, is that he is no stranger to the gay community and its concerns. Bob Cook is a gay man himself. Although he was reluctant to discuss the issue, Cook did confirm his homosexuality in the interview, although he went on to say that it had no bearing on his com-

"I go from being an individual who is a commentator who happens to be gay to becoming a gay commentator. And if that happens...anything that I say is tainted. . ."

said. He continued by explaining that he had hoped that listing such ridiculous reasons for excluding gays and lesbians from the military would clearly make the point of how ludicrous the Navy's position really is.

Unfortunately, many viewers didn't get the joke, and the November 14th commentary became a hot topic of discussion. In addition to Christine Craft's objection, Laurie McBride, Executive Director of the Lobby for Individual Freedom and Equality sent Cook a letter of concern. In the letter, McBride

mentary. "I am not a spokesperson for the gay community," he said. "Living a gay lifestyle has about as much impact when I'm making decisions as the color my hair and the color of my eyes."

Although he identifies himself as a gay man, Cook is anything but a proud member of the gay community. "To say a gay community and assume everyone is in it I think is wrong, because I consider myself to be gay, but not to be in the gay community. I think the majority of gay men remain closeted because of the stereo-

type. I mean the [typical image of] Queer Nation and Act Up and Sister Boom Boom. They create such negative images that [many gay men] don't want to be associated with or lumped with those groups. I think that's what holds everybody back."

When asked whether he felt his referral to Jeffery Dahmer in response to Christine Craft was an example of

Cook theorizes, lead society to identify gays as outsiders, rather than people like everyone else.

Bob Cook does not feel that it is his role to provide a good example of a "normal" gay man, however. In fact, he feels that being identified as a gay man to the community at large could be damaging to gay issues. "I am a professional who happens to be gay, as opposed to being a professional gay. The concern that I have is that instead of being a commentator who simply will on occasion discuss gay issues or AIDS-related issues, that suddenly I go from being an individual who is a commentator who happens to be gay to becoming a gay commentator. And if that happens...anything that I say is tainted as if it would be printed in your paper. [Viewers would think] oh well he is supporting AB101 because he's gay, as opposed to supporting AB101 on its merits." Therefore, Cook continued, he would have to avoid addressing gay issues on the air which would cause future legislation to suffer. "I have a very good entree to the elected leaders in the state. They listen, they watch, they discuss what I say on the air." He therefore concluded that being openly gay "would be damaging to the cause, not to me."

Cook does believe, however, that he has suffered personal damage in the past due to

*continued on page 24*



# Choice and Circumstance Bring Kids to Gay Families

by Sara Myers

Family values became the catchphrase of the 1992 election year when conservatives coined the term in an attempt to a wrap the ideals of heterosexual marriage, public funding of private schools, the outlawing of abortion rights, and strong anti-gay campaign in a simple and pleasant-sounding package. The drive backfired dramatically though when people from a variety of backgrounds protested that their opposition to the conservative agenda did not make them anti-family. In the media explosion that followed, it seems that every conceivable type of family was defined and interviewed. **And finally, the world began to see that gay people have families too.**

Lesbians and gays have children for a variety of reasons. Some, like Pam and Barb Lockrem-West, by design and others, like Tom Jackson and Garret Madderra, by circumstance. Pam and Barb, together for over four years, have long felt the desire to build a family. They considered other options, foster parenting and adoption, before settling on donor insemination. They are expecting their first child in January. They say, "We're together, a couple. We have made the ultimate form of commitment."

Neither Tom nor Garret (together for over six years) originally planned their current family arrangement: visitation and part-time parenting responsibility for Bryon, age 15, and Heather, 17. Tom, married for ten years, assumed he and his wife would remain together while raising their kids. And as for Garret, he says, "I really never even thought about a relationship involving children until I met Tom. Now the four of us make up a family."

Pam and Barb have felt an outpouring of support from almost everyone around them since deciding to have a baby. They agreed that Barb, who works as an electrician for P G & E, should be the one to bear the child. Not only did she feel a stronger desire to experience pregnancy, but had better health insurance benefits than Pam, who as owner of Wham! (a hair salon and boutique), is self-employed.

Their friends, both male and female, are thrilled at the prospect of having a baby in their midst. Barb's family, too, has been completely supportive. "The only thing my dad was unhappy about," Barb says, "is that we changed our name to Lockrem-West. He wanted the baby to have the family name."

Barb reports that her co-workers have been surprisingly positive, as well. "They think

its great! I work with a bunch of redneck guys and they ask me how I chose the donor and

Garret's relationship, although the road to that acceptance has been occasionally rocky.

"When my wife and I separated, the kids were small," Tom says. "Although Heather handled it okay, Bryon really took it hard. We were always so close; he just clung to me from the time he was born." Bryon was so traumatized by the family break up that he became physically ill and had to be hospitalized. He regressed emotionally and his schoolwork suffered. "I was so guilt-ridden.

about Bryon's reaction, the boy took the news in stride. It was Heather, surprisingly, who was affected by the news that Dad was gay. "She screamed and cried and wouldn't believe it was true," says Tom. Eventually the hysteria blew over though and it hasn't been an issue with the kids since.

Their other parents are a different story though. Heather and Bryon's mother is remarried to a country redneck who can't stand to have the kids in "that environment." Conse-

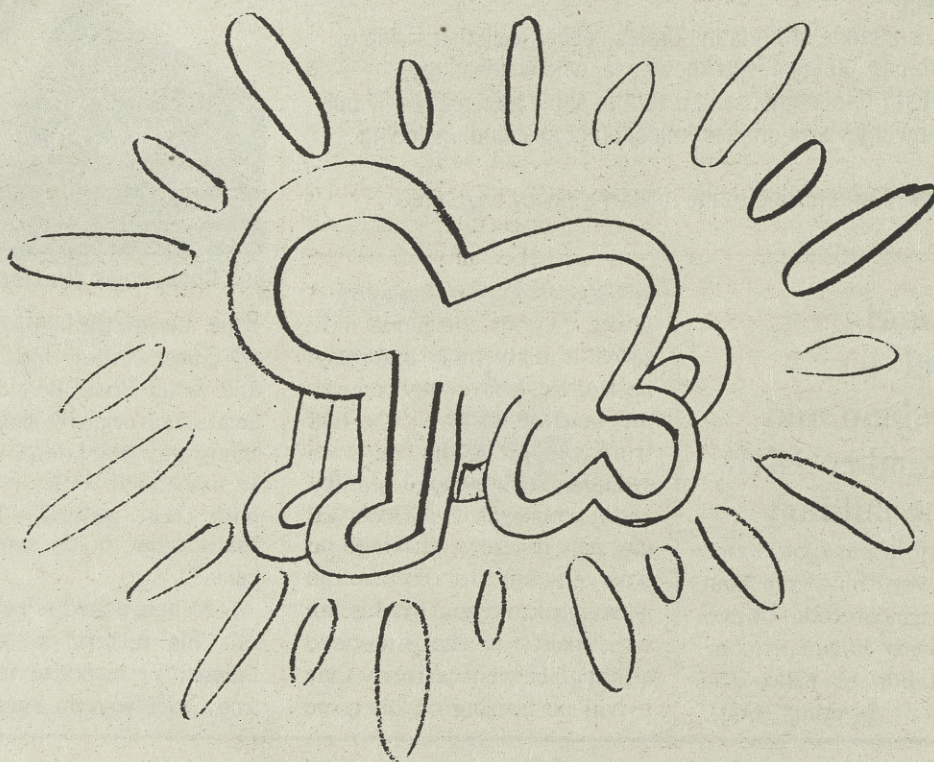
medical school. As practical as it sounds, though, her mother and step-father are wholly opposed to the plan. They have told Heather they can't believe she would work for Garret, asking, "How can you stand to be around that kind of people?" Tom says that Heather is strong-willed, though, and will end up doing exactly what she wants to. "I just wish they wouldn't make it so hard for her," he concludes.

But raising children in a gay household can be a difficult endeavor. The world is still accustomed to families made up of a mom, a dad, and kids - regardless of how infrequently that combination really occurs. Children's books, movies, and schools refer to the "normal" family as one having two parents, one male and one female.

When asked whether it is fair to raise a child in a lesbian household in such a homophobic society, Pam and Barb respond angrily. "Is it fair to have ten children when you can only afford to feed one? There is no ideal family. As long as the child grows up with parents who love it, what more can you ask?" They concede that the world is prejudiced against gay families, but say they feel change coming. "I am thrilled that I am due [to deliver] the day after Clinton's inauguration," Barb says, "It gives me hope."

Indeed, political issues are of extreme importance to gay families. Pam and Barb cite custody rights, health care, and recognition of gay relationships as critical concerns. They plan to continue to be politically active but feel that their most important political statement will be made by being out and visible as gay parents. "I plan to be very involved in my child's school," Barb says.

Tom and Garret also believe it is important for society to recognize them as a gay family. Tom sums up his feelings with a heartfelt sentiment familiar to many gay parents. "My biggest goal," he says, "is to show the world that gays are healthy emotionally, physically, and spiritually and to prove that we can raise kids better than many straight people." Pam and Barb, Garret and Tom, and millions of other gay parents are on the road to making that goal a reality.



stuff," Barb continues, "P G & E is a great company to work for. They are currently working for (health insurance) coverage for domestic partners and they have a very active gay and lesbian workers' organization."

Pam's family, with whom she has little contact, is apathetic about the impending birth. In fact, Pam cites her tenuous relationship with her own parents as one reason she wants to build a family of her own. It is critical to her, she says, to be part of a supportive, loving family since she missed the experience as a child.

Tom was raised in a terrific atmosphere, he says, with a lesbian grandma and her lover of over 40 years as role models. Garret too grew up in a warm family environment, and he, Tom, and the kids are close to his family today. Bryon and Heather fully accept Tom and

den. I knew that Bryon's troubles were all my fault for leaving," Tom says.

That guilt and fear of further emotional upsets prevented Tom from telling his children the reason for the divorce, that he was gay. The truth finally came out one day when Bryon and Heather were spending the weekend with Tom and Garret. "Bryon and I were in the kitchen cooking dinner. The phone was ringing, Heather was screaming, someone was at the door, and Bryon was following me around asking 'Dad, are you gay? Dad, are you gay?' So much was going on that I just tuned Bryon out," Tom says. Finally, Bryon's words broke through and Tom realized it was time to explain. "I just dropped everything and took him in the other room for a long talk."

Despite Tom's dire fears

quently, the fur often flies at home when their step-father criticizes Tom and Garret and the kids jump in to defend them. And when all four parents run into one another at the kids' school events it is extremely uncomfortable. In fact, the step-father went so far as to ask Tom and Garret not to attend Bryon's football games, a request they chose not to comply with. "Bryon said he loves to have us there," Tom says, "and we want him to know how proud we are of him. We wouldn't miss a game."

Unfortunately, the family discord sometimes makes it difficult to make long-range plans for the kids. Heather, who graduates from high school next June, plans to move out and work part time for Garret (a dentist) to gain medical office experience while going to school. Eventually, she plans to go to



# getting OUTTA TOWN

## Boycott Called on the Rocky Mountain Hate State

by Michael R. Gorman

**W**hen the votes were counted Nov. 3, Colorado became the first state in the union to pass a constitutional amendment that legally sanctions discrimination against a designated group of its citizens.

Effective Jan. 4, the gay anti-discrimination ordinances in Denver, Boulder and Aspen will be automatically repealed, and the state constitution will bar passage of any further such protections based on sexual orientation anywhere in the state. So says Amendment 2.

Within hours of Amendment 2's passage, activist around the country began calling for a boycott of the state similar to the boycott that forced Arizona to institute a state holiday for Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. The following day, Nov. 4, Marty Wayne Booker, a 26-year-old Colorado Springs man took his own life rather than "live through the Auschwitz CFV (Colorado for Family Values) has in mind for people like me!" He added to the suicide note, "I'm sorry my crime in life was love - albeit to the same gender." Two weeks later, Barbra Streisand stood before a star-studded audience at an AIDS benefit in Los Angeles and urged the entertainment world to boycott Colorado, including the city of Aspen where many Hollywood stars have winter vacation homes.

Reaction from gays and lesbians in Colorado has been mixed. Many fear that a na-

tional boycott will hurt gay businesses the most. Others worry that the Colorado gay and lesbian community will become isolated and thereby less powerful. Tom Mooney, a spokesperson for the upcoming Aspen Gay Ski Week told The Latest Issue, "In the 50's Blacks did not boycott their own. Aspen voted against Amendment 2. It makes no sense to punish Aspen. We think gay ski week is exempt. We're working for the same goal as the boycott people. We're planning educational events during the week, and we'll be raising thousands of dollars for the March on Washington and other gay groups. Besides, most people paid a year in advance. We're not canceling." However, he added, "94 is a big question at this point, though."

According to John Ashton of Ski West Travel Agency, several groups have canceled plans to attend the Aspen event, including the Ariba Ski Club from L.A., and few are making new plans to visit the state. One hotel in Aspen lost every reservation for the ski week. In addition, the American Foundation for AIDS Research pulled out of an Aspen fundraiser along with two corporate spon-

sors. The International Design Conference of Aspen and the Music Association of Aspen conference have both been canceled, and the opening of the Aspen Ritz Carlton lost its radio sponsor. The city council of Aspen has filed a lawsuit against Amendment 2. The mayor's office in Denver estimates that the city of Denver has lost \$5 million in business so far, and others put the state-wide loss at \$40 million since the election.

Within days of the election, various gay rights groups in Colorado met to discuss a plan of action. A board of nine activists was chosen to establish Boycott Colorado Inc., an information clearinghouse for a national boycott. Terri Schlader, board member and spokesperson for BCI, stressed that a unified fight is necessary to pressure for a repeal of Amendment 2 before its fundamentalist Christian backers (including Orange County's Traditional Values Coalition) institute their plans to export the legislation around the country. Christian activists already have plans to introduce a version of Amendment 2 in Oregon which voted down a more stringent law on November 3. Other states are being studied for similar efforts. Said Schlader, "Gays and lesbians who are ambiguous about the boycott aren't realiz-

ing that, come January, we will be rendered powerless in this state. There will be nothing to

hateful law." The resolution will be voted on by the Finance Committee on December 16 and

The following day, Marty Wayne Booker, a 26-year-old Colorado Springs man took his own life rather than "live through the Auschwitz CFV (Colorado for Family Values) has in mind for people like me!"

stop the state from closing our businesses, doing anything. You can have no economic growth without civil rights."

Katie Dwight, aide to San Francisco Supervisor Harry Britt agrees with Schlader. "The fundamentalists have promised to carry it to other states. We must stop it now." Britt has introduced legislation to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors which will require the city and county of San Francisco to boycott all products from Colorado, and will forbid the use of any government funds for travel to the state. Explained Dwight, "Our community must send a message that this is not acceptable. We will not support this kind of

then returned to the board for action.

Also joining the boycott are the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund out of Washington D.C., The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, the cities of New York and Atlanta, the National Education Association, the Lobby For Individual Freedom and Equality out of Sacramento, and the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights. The Unitarian Universalist Church, the United Church of Christ and the American Psychological Association all have standing rules that prohibit national meetings in states that criminalize gays and lesbians in

*continued on page 12*

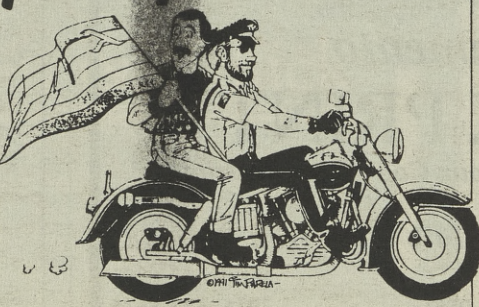
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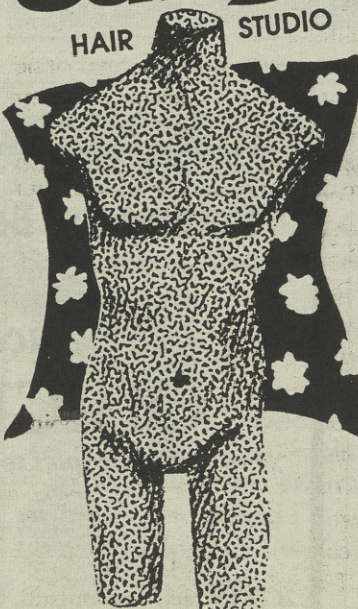
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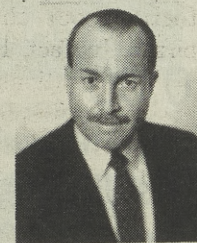


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## COLORADO

continued from page 11  
meetings in states that criminalize gays and lesbians in any way.

Martin Niraga of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force told the latest ISSUE, "The boycott is on! Our press director is in Colorado now, helping the community do media organizing. Our board is

currently considering its official position. They will issue a statement after the 18th of December." Boycott Colorado fully expects NGLTF to join the boycott, according to Schlader.

In the meantime, Coloradans struggle with a myriad of conflicting feelings. Irene Lalich, the straight manager of a deli in Boulder, one of the cities that will lose its anti-discrimination law expressed this ambiguity: "It's still so hard for me to believe that a law like that could pass in a state that voted

for Jerry Brown. This is a schizophrenic state. I think that the gay community has a right to be angry, but not to be hostile to people who don't deserve hostility. They should try to help the 46-47% of us who voted against it, help us educate the ignorant. If they just leave, the bigots will say, 'Oh yay!' My feelings are hurt by the hostility. I know what's in my heart. I love my gay friends. Colorado is not a hate state. Some really decent people are being hurt because of the right-wing Christian majority

in the outskirts and Colorado Springs. We're gonna get punished along with those other yahoos. I guess we're partly responsible. We weren't paying attention. I don't know. I don't know."

Despite the intricacies of public and political reaction to the boycott, perhaps one activist summed up the situation best when he voiced his support of the boycott by quoting Harvey Milk: "It's a simple matter of Justice." And perhaps the boycott is inevitable for very practical reasons. As Terri Schlader said, "Colorado is just not a safe place for gays and lesbians right now. Bashings are up. Who wants to go to a place where they aren't safe?"

## CALENDAR

continued from page 7

Room.

James Williams of Altomar Videos photographed the winners. Williams donated his time, services, and film to this project. Working under a short time schedule he completed the photos within two weeks.

The calendars are placed in stores and bars in San Francisco and Sacramento. Local businesses carrying the calendar are; Valentis, How Tacky, Postcards Etc., Film for Days, the Wreck Room, the Mercantile Saloon, Town House, Sacramento AIDS Foundation, and the Lambda Community Center.

San Francisco businesses carrying the calendar are the Different Light Bookstore and Under One Roof.

Projects benefiting from the sale will be the Sacramento AIDS Foundation, the Lambda Community Center, Hope House and the Fairy Godfather Fund.

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# HIV + POSITIVE

## HIV Specialty Pharmacy Opens in the Castro

by Arturo Jackson III

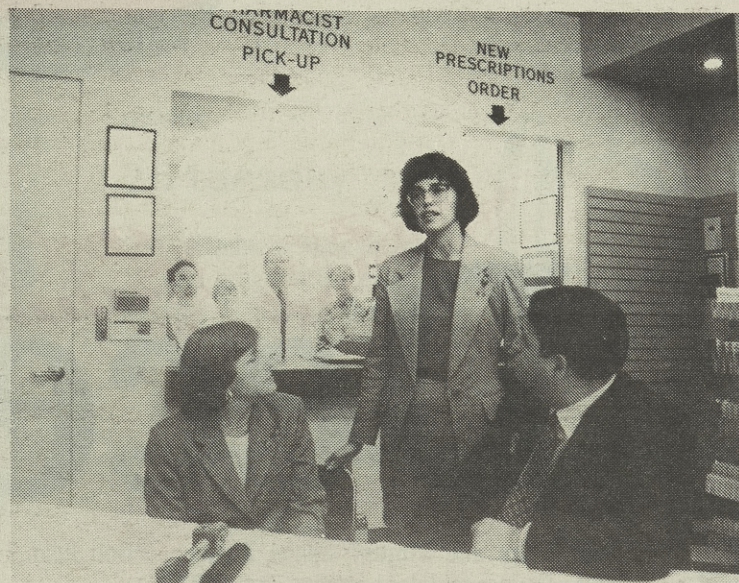
**T**he Castro Village Pharmacy opened in San Francisco on Dec. 1 (World AIDS Day) as the first HIV specialty store in the country.

The pharmacy will utilize a fully computerized and automated dispensing system to streamline the process, especially for people with HIV/AIDS, in obtaining prescribed medicines.

The Castro Village Pharmacy, located at 4122 18th Street in the heart of the gay Mecca by the bay, also has an extensive community resource center and full-time resource coordinator to answer inquiries regarding other available services.

"We're giving people living with HIV the basic tools of easy and quick access to medication, community resource information, and direct assignment of prescription costs to insurance companies," stated Paul Morabito, 28, owner of the pharmacy.

The pharmacy will bill insurance companies for the medicines which previously patients had to pay for up front and then request reimbursement. "The Castro Village Pharmacy will file the claim



Robert Achtenberg, Norma Garcia-Kennedy, of McKesson Corp. along with Paul Morabito, owner of the Castro Street Pharmacy.

with the insurance providers and save the patient both time and money added Morabito.

"No other retail pharmacy

in America stocks more HIV medication or dispenses it faster," emphasized Morabito. The pharmacy's computerized

system prints a detailed summary for each prescription which includes information on the drug; its intended action, and possible known side effects. The pharmacy also has a free prescription delivery service available to homebound patients.

The Castro Village Pharmacy is the newest member of the Value-Rite voluntary pharmacy organization sponsored by McKesson Drug Company, the nation's largest distributor of pharmaceutical and health care products. In January, the pharmacy will begin installing computers at participating physicians offices to make prescribed drug information more readily available and speed up the time required to fill a patient's prescription.



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# PLAN-IT

## 16 wednesday

**Martha Paulos artwork** on display at the Michael Himovitz Gallery, 1020 Tenth Street. Dec. 16 - 31

**"It's a Wonderful Life"** at the Crest Theater, 1013 K Street. For details call 44-CREST. Dec. 16 - 20

**Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Meeting**, 7:30 p.m. at the St. Marks United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Marks Way. Call 665-1050 for more details.

## 17 thursday

**CARES Holiday Open House**, bring an ornament to CARES at 2710 Capitol Ave.

## 18 friday

**A Christmas Carol** at Garbeau's Dinner Theater, 12401 Folsom Blvd. For ticket call 985-6361.

Thru Jan 3



**"The Hours and Times"** opens at the Tower Theater midnight movies. Call 443-1982 for details.

## 19 saturday

**Sacramento Men's Chorus** present their holiday concert titled **"Winter Dreams"** at the First United Methodist Church, 21st and J Streets. Tickets available at the Gifted Gardener, 2122 J Street. Saturday performance begins at 8 p.m., Sunday performance is a 3 p.m. matinee. Tickets \$8.

Dec. 19 & 20

**Back to Black '92 Comedy Explosion**, at the Crest Theater. Call 923-BASS for tickets.

## 22 tuesday

**"How to Attract Money,"** a special lecture at the Church of Enthusiasm and Joy. Call 489-7503 for details.

**Co-Dependants Anonymous Meeting** at the SMUD Building, corner of Elkhorn and

Don Julio. 7 p.m.

## 23 wednesday

**March on Washington** organizational meet-



ing at the Lambda Community Center, 1931 L Street. 8 - 9:30 p.m. Call 442-0185 for details.

**"White Christmas"** showing at the Crest Theater. Enjoy this Holiday Classic nightly at 7 p.m. Call 44-CREST for more details.

Dec. 23 & 24

## 25 friday

## Christmas

Happy Holidays from the staff of the latest ISSUE!

## 31 thursday

**Bring in 93 with Family**, New Year's Eve Party sponsored by the latest ISSUE, the Lambda Community Center, Sacramento Lesbians Creating Change and the River City Democratic Club, at the Tuesday Club Ballroom, 2722 L Street. Dance to the great mix of music by lesbian band "Second Wind."

**Faces Erotic Black & White Ball**, 2000 K St. Doors open at 8 p.m.

**New Year's Eve Ball** at the Hyatt \$40 per person.



## MONDAYS

**Worried Well support group** for HIV Negative people effected by HIV Positive loved ones. 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30 p.m. For more info call 448-2436.

**Men's Coming Out Group** at the Lambda Center from 5:30 - 7 p.m. For info call 442-0185

**Lesbian & Gay Town Council** meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. 448-0422.

**Women's Group for Survivors of Sexual Abuse** meets every other Monday from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Facilitated by Melinda Facelli, MFCC (Intern) #IMF 15850. For info and location call 783-0579.

## TUESDAYS

**Being Gay Today**, 10 p.m. on cable 18. An hour of lesbian & gay programming from around the country & beyond.

**Heart to Heart**, a HIV+ support group that is for gay and bi men to talk about common emotions. 6:30 - 8 p.m. 920 20th Street. Call 448-2437 for info.

**Sacramento Leather Association** monthly meeting at the Wreck Room at 7 p.m. First Tuesday of each month. call 737-0651.

## WEDNESDAYS

**Ladies Night at Faces**, 2000 K Street. Country Western Dance at 7:00 p.m.

## THURSDAYS

**Being Gay Today**, 9 p.m. on cable 18. An hour of lesbian & gay programming from around the country & beyond.

**Being Alive Living Room** HIV+ social group from 2 - 5 p.m. at the Lambda Center. Call 442-0185 for info.

**Lesbian Support Group** for Partners of Incest/Molest Survivors. 1st & 3rd Thursdays from 7 - 8:30 p.m. at 1701 H Street. For info call 722-4570.

## FRIDAYS

**Cafe' Lambda** coffee house at the Lambda Center 8 p.m. - midnight. call 442-0185.

**Country Western Dance** at 7:30 p.m. Activity center of River City MCC, 34th & Broadway. For info call 454-4726.

## SATURDAYS

**Gay Men's/Lesbian Running Group**, all levels welcome. For more info call 387-8275 or 444-2835.

## SUNDAYS

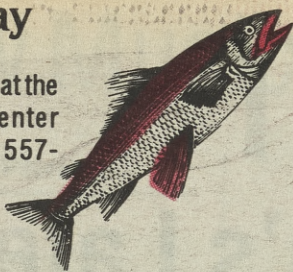
**River City Metropolitan Community Church**; 7 a.m. communion, 9, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. worship service. For more info call 454-4762.

**Tea Dance** at Faces 3 - 7 p.m., barbecue at 5 p.m., country/western at 7 p.m.



5 tuesday

**Les Miserables** at the Community Center Theater. Call 557-1999 for info.



Show, 7-9 p.m., Newman Center. Recruiters will be on hand regarding current volunteer positions. For more information call 1(800) 292-2461 ext. 674.

8 friday

**"Torch Song Trilogy"** performed by the Lambda Players at the YWCA. Call 442-4741 ext. 21 for ticket information.

Jan. 8 - 30

14 thursday

**SAGA Skate Night** at Foothill Skate, 4700 Auburn Blvd. \$5 includes skates. Call Tom at 635-1535 for more information

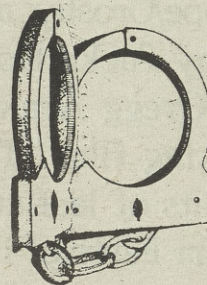
# January



women.

26 tuesday

**Co-Dependants Anonymous**, a 12 step program for gays and lesbians. 7 p.m. at the SMUD building at the corner of Elkhorn and Don Julio



30 saturday

**Ms. Sacramento Valley Leather 93 Contest**, at Joseph's Town and Country, for ticket information contact the Sacramento Leather Association at P.O. Box 5789, Sacramento, CA or attend the SLA meeting at the Wreck Room on January 5.



20 wednesday

**Romanovsky & Phillips** at the Sierra 2 Theater, 2791 24th Street. A benefit for SAGA IV. 8 p.m. \$15 advance, \$17 door. Tickets available at Lioness Books and the Gifted Gardener. For more information call 731-5648.

**KODO**, drum performing company, at the Sacramento Community Center Theater, 8 p.m.

21 thursday

9 saturday

**Linda Tillery** in Concert at the Sierra 2 Theater, 2791 24th Street. A benefit for SAGA IV. 8 p.m. \$15 advance, \$17 door. Tickets available at Lioness Books and the Gifted Gardener. For more information call 731-5648.



**Camerata Musica of Berlin** at U.C. Davis Freeborn Hall. 8 p.m., \$19 premium/ \$16 standard.

22 friday

**20th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade**, luncheon presented by Planned Parenthood of Sacramento Valley. Also planned in an evening presentation. For information call 446-5037 ext. 435

23 saturday

12 tuesday

**Peace Corps Community Forum and Film**

**Dos Fallopi** -- two lesbian comedians from Seattle at the Clarion Hotel. Call 451-8034 for tickets. A SACWN event for

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the latest

# ENTERTAINMENT

## Gays on the Run Plus Mel Gibson's Latest

by Chris Narloch

**"I**t's like a Hope/Crosby movie... in which Crosby fucks Hope." That's how Gregg Araki describes his funny and shocking film "The Living End," — one of the hits of last summer's Lesbian and Gay Film Festival in San Francisco — that is now showing at Tower Theater's midnight movies.

Araki's disturbing, yet romantic film arrives in town just in time for Christmas, as part of a recent wave of "queer cinema" in Sacramento. Hailed as a gay "Thelma and Louise," the movie was actually written well before that movie came out.

Still, there are similarities between the two films — both feature an odd couple on a road trip through hell and a crime spree fueled by violent sexual emotions.

In the film, Jon, a brooding writer, picks up Luke, a free-wheeling hustler, after Luke has killed three gay-bashers. The two men bond after learning they are both HIV+.

If the movie sounds like a downer, it should be pointed out that whenever the script threatens to get preachy, the director throws in a wacky character or some off-the-wall

dialogue to lighten the mood.

Despite a few dead spots, "The Living End" is a pretty amazing example of independent cinema on a shoestring budget. The movie was written, directed, shot and edited by Araki, and he is an artist to watch. His heroes are angry young men fed up with homophobia and fed up with the specter of AIDS. They have nothing to lose but each other.

### Forever Young

It seems like every major movie star eventually dons the old age make-up in an attempt to nab an Academy Award. Mel Gibson is the latest actor to take the plunge in his new flick "Forever Young," a hunk version of Rip Van Winkle that looks like this year's Christmas turkey.



A scene from Gregg Araki's award-winning movie "The living End."

Gibson plays a test pilot frozen in 1942 after his girl friend goes into a coma, who thaws out fifty years later after the military forgets about him. It's a weak idea at best, and the cheesy script and impersonal direction don't help matters.

The laughable scene where Gibson is awakened, as a sort of nude Frankenstein, has got to be one of the low points of his career. The potential of time

travel and cryogenics are never developed, and the repeated use of the great Billie Holliday on the soundtrack make the feeble love story even more fraudulent.

Mel Gibson made two excellent love stories in the early 80s that put this film to shame — "The Year of Living Dangerously" with Sigourney Weaver, and "Mrs. Soffel" with Diane Keaton. He then proceeded to get stuck in the action hero

pigeonhole with his "Mad Max" and "Lethal Weapon" movies.

Gibson has tried to break out of that mold before, with "Hamlet" for instance (even miscast, he was fascinating.)

Gays may choose to boycott "Forever Young" because of homophobic comments he has allegedly made. And if he doesn't start reading scripts more carefully, he won't have any straight fans either.

### CREST THEATRE

December 23 & 24 **White Christmas** At 7 p.m. Nightly  
December 26 **Gulliver's Travels** Plays at 1, 7 and 8:45 p.m.  
January 1 **The Women** Described as "135 Women with Men on Their Minds" featuring Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, Rosalind Russell & others.  
Plays at 7 & 9:30 p.m.  
January 6 - 9 **Blood in the Face with Resurgence**  
A searing look at the radical right, a social and political force which can no longer be dismissed. Featuring film of the Klu Klux Klan and Aryan Nation.  
Plays nightly at 8:10 and an addition shown Saturday at 2:10.  
January 13 & 14 Almodovar's **What Have I Done to Deserve This?** Film plays nightly at 7 and 9 p.m.

1013 K Street  
Info; 44-CREST



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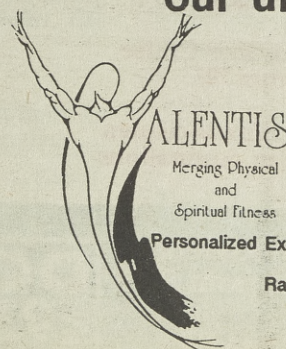
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# New Music from Whitney, Go West and Others

by Bill Peterson

## Erasure

### "Pop! The First 20 Hits"

Vince Clark has proven to be a very important player in the early 80s British synth-pop invasion – being a creative force behind no less than three modern music stand-bys (Depeche Mode, Yaz and Erasure). Still, judging from this collection, variety doesn't play an important part in Clark's and singing partner Andy Bell's artistic vision.

Credit for the appeal of the songs seems to owe more to good drum programming than solid songwriting, yet the songs – from the earlier cuts "Oh L'Amour" and "Victim of Love" through their late 80s hit "Chains of Love" to last summer's Abba remake "Take



EMI Recording Artists, "Go West."

## Peter Gabriel

### "Us"

Once again proving that a true pop artiste can be innovative and successful simultaneously, Peter Gabriel returns 6 years on from his last pop album with "US."

Gabriel presents a richly textured selection of introspective songs that grow with each listen. On "Blood of Eden," the vocal harmonies between Gabriel and Sinéad O'Connor recall Simon and Garfunkel in their heyday.

Recorded at his aptly titled "Real World" studio with some of the finest musicians from around the globe, "US" melds world music with pop and wraps the production around some sterling tune-smithery to create an invigorating yet soothing mood of intimacy. **\*\*\*\***



the challenges of a funkier production. **\*\*\***

## Whitney Houston

### "The Bodyguard Soundtrack"

If you don't believe she can act, see the movie and if you don't think she has a powerhouse of a voice, buy the album – but be prepared – this is no low key affair. On most of Whitney's six songs she holds nothing back, and tends to exhaust the listener who is enticed by the memorable songs. So, if you have fine crystal in your home, you'd best not turn the volume up too much.

The second half with Lisa Stansfield and Curtis Stigers features standard soundtrack material – a few solid tunes amid some generic filler. **\*\*\***

Please Recycle  
this Newspaper

## Whitney Houston.

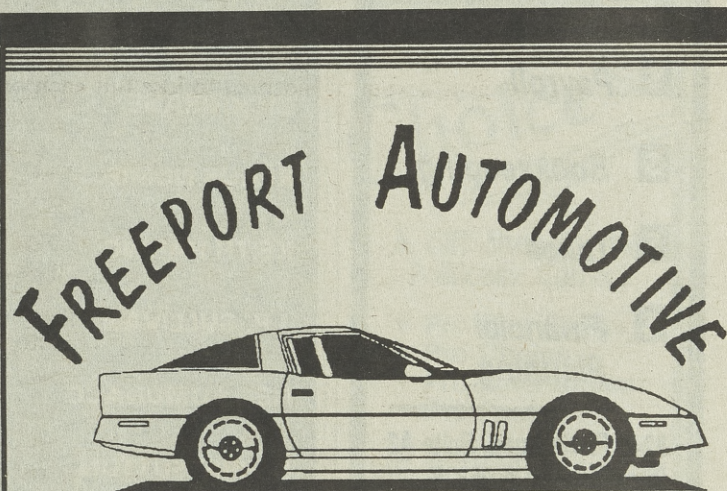
a Chance on Me" are undeniably catchy. POP! goes the title, but fizz may be a more appropriate tag. **\*\*\***

## Go West

### "Indian Summer"

Another British pop band, with a significantly shorter list of hits (most recently, "King of Wishful Thinking" from the

"Pretty Woman Soundtrack") returns after several years with their third effort. With a few standouts, including a remake of Bobby Caldwell's late 70s hit, "What You Won't Do For Love" and the hip-hop influenced "I Want You Back," the rest of "Indian Summer" is a well mannered album – and therein lies the problem – Peter Cox's smoky voice could rise to



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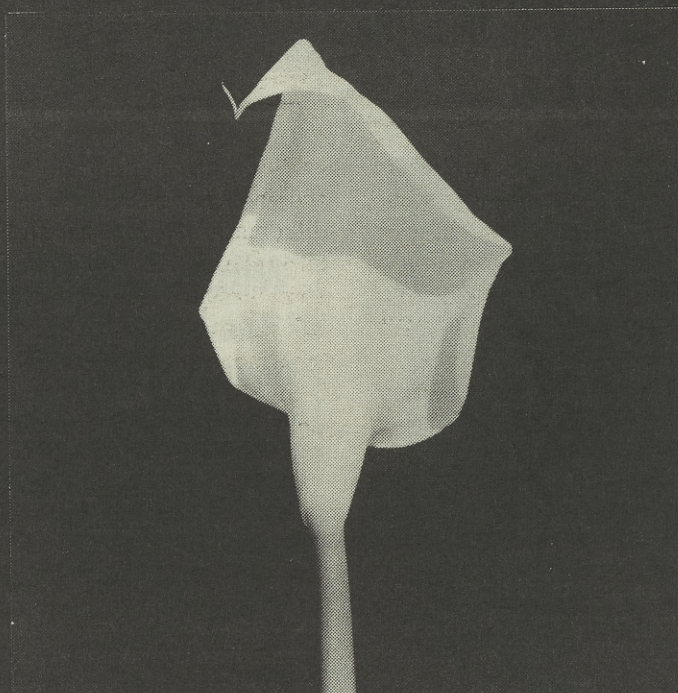
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**KERRIE SUTTON**

**GREG LYN**



Photograph by Robert Mapplethorpe, 1987.

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**TOM REED**

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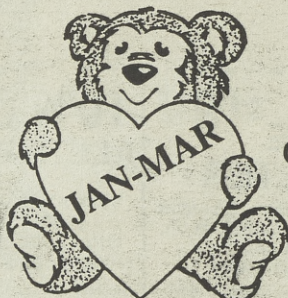
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# OUT at Disney! Aladdin's Gay Animator

by Steve Warren

**"Uncle Walt" Disney would have loved Andreas Deja's story — except for the gay part.**

"This is really not Walt's studio anymore," Deja says of the place he has worked as an animator since coming to America 12 years ago — the Disney Studios. If his interests didn't lie behind the drawing board, the handsome, lightly accented 32-year-old might be considered leading man material in Hollywood.

Deja was born in Poland but his family escaped to Germany when he was a year old. When he was ten he saw Disney's "The Jungle Book" and chose his career path. He wrote to the studio to volunteer his services. They replied that he should study hard and try again later.

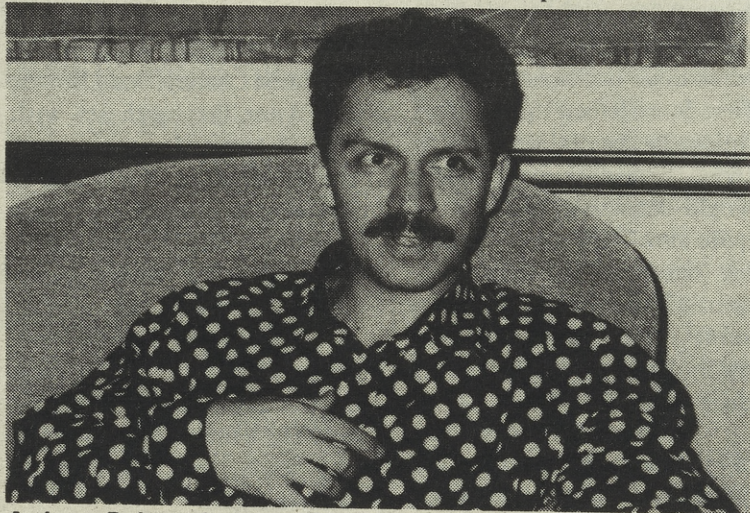
Ten years later he did. "I took my art training very seriously over the years," Deja says. "I had studied the Disney style and analyzed it." When he showed his portfolio at the studio he was told, "It looks like you've already worked here for 20 years."

After working on "The Black Cauldron," "The Great Mouse Detective" and "Oliver & Company," and spending a year in London helping animate "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," Deja became a supervising animator in charge of Triton in "The Little Mermaid," Gaston in "Beauty and the Beast" and now, the evil vizier in "Aladdin."

Deja points out three examples of gay-ish humor in Aladdin. Two are part of Robin Williams' wild vocal performance as the Genie. Among his

"everything was, 'Would Walt have done this?'"

But since Jeffrey Katzenberg became studio chairman, the Disney Studios and other enterprises have become



Andreas Deja, animator of Disney's Aladdin.

varied incarnations is a flamboyant tailor; in another scene he rescues Aladdin and says, "I'm getting fond of you, kid. Not that I want to pick out curtains or anything." The Gilbert Gottfried-voiced parrot Iago, after attracting the amorous attention of a flamingo, discourages the suitor with: "You got a problem, pinky?"

No offense is intended, and Deja asked whether he was bothered by the jokes or thought other gays would be. He gave an enthusiastic thumbs-up, so blame him if you have objections.

Would Walt have approved? Ask Tommy Kirk, the former Disney star who was fired in the mid-'60s when his gayness came to light. The conservative Disney, the original "family values" guy, was reportedly homophobic and is rumored to have been gay himself. "when Ron Miller ran the studio in the '80s," Deja views,

among the most progressive in the industry. You may hear differently from some theme park employees who object to strict dress and behavioral codes, but at least they're protected by a nondiscrimination policy that includes sexual orientation. Next, perhaps Disney will follow MCA / Universal's lead in offering domestic partner benefits to its unmarried employees.

In addition, Deja points out, "They were so supportive of Howard Ashman. They didn't drop him when he became so sick they couldn't use him. He wanted to know what was happening with 'Beauty and the Beast' and Jeff (Katzenberg) and Peter Schneider, vice president of Animation, went to see him in the hospital almost every day with sketches and videos.... Jeff wears a red ribbon everywhere."

Ashman, the lyricist who also became involved in writing

and production of "The Little Mermaid," "Beauty and the Beast" and, in its early stages, "Aladdin," died of AIDS in March 1991. His lover, William Lauch, went up to composer Alan Menken a year later to accept Ashman's second Oscar, for the song "Beauty and the Beast." (His first was for "Under the Sea" from "The Little Mermaid.")

The directors of Aladdin, John Musker and Ron Clements, are both married to women. Is this the point on the Disney ladder where nondiscrimination stops? "I don't think that has anything to do with it," Deja says. It was his own decision to halt his rise through the ranks. "I see no need to become a producer or director. You don't draw anymore. It's no fun."

Designing Gaston for "Beauty and the Beast," Deja says, Katzenberg held him to the film's message: Don't judge a book by its cover. The hunky Gaston proved to be rotten inside while the Beast contained a handsome prince who had been working through some character flaws. Deja claims he wasn't influenced by Tom of Finland, but based Gaston on L.A. men he sees "everywhere, looking in the mirror, in love with themselves."

Deja's next project is "The Lion King," an animated feature due out in the summer of 1994 that brings him full cycle to the sylvan setting of "The Jungle Book." He'll be responsible for yet another villain, Scar, voiced by Jeremy Irons. Matthew Broderick and James Earl Jones will also do character voices.

The only new animation from Disney in 1993, other than a "Roger Rabbit" short, Deja reports, will be Tim Burton's

stop-motion feature "The Nightmare Before Christmas."

The long-rumored sequel to "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" is not even in pre-production, Deja reports. Although he says combining live action and animation is "a pain in the neck to do," "he's sure we'll be seeing more of it. If and when a sequel to Mary Poppins is made, it will incorporate more animation than the original. "We have Julie Andrews on hold for it," but the woman in England who owns the rights is holding things up."

With animation bigger than ever, there's certainly plenty of it in Disney's future; and as far as he's concerned, Disney's future is Deja's future. His articulate enthusiasm makes him the studio's best- and gayest-spokesperson since Mickey Mouse.

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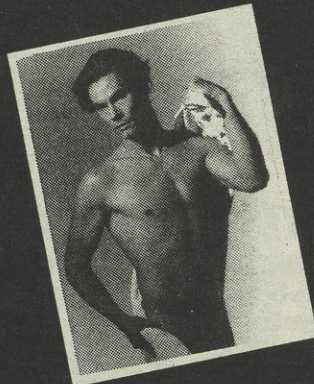
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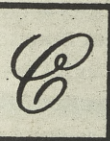
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# RUMOR HAS IT

**H**appy ho, ho, ho holidays. Let's take a little time out from the Christmas mall crawl to reflect on the festive gossip of the season.

**Chris Narloch** is celebrating his 29th birthday this month, or so he says. Since no one believes anyone who says they're 29, I think it makes more sense to jump directly from 28 to 30. What do you think **Chris**?

**Michael Boyd** recently celebrated his birthday at a surprise party thrown for him by his partner **Ralph**. **Michael** and **Ralph's** families met for the first time at the party, and it all went swimmingly. What a relief to have the first big intro

out of the way!

Speaking of birthdays, **Gordon** was surprised with an impromptu birthday song at **Brad, Dan and Alan's** holiday celebration. The party was a it,



**Paul Starr and Mike Fuhrer.**

packed to the rafters with gorgeous men including the muscle-bound **Dave** whom many mistook for Superman. One after another, men excitedly introduced themselves to the shy hunk, only to walk away downcast with the sad news that **Dave** is leaving California for the east coast in January. Boo hoo.

On a cheerier note, many Sacramento couples registered for domestic partnership last month. **John and Sonny Helm** (together for over 20 years), **George Hollcraft and Earl Grist**, **Laurie McBride and Donna Yutzy**, and **Mary Smith and Genie Cowan** were among the couples who registered the first day. Also there were **Mike Fuhrer and Paul Starr** who had been married just a few days when they registered. **Mike** and **Paul's** wedding was a bash. The vows, which they wrote themselves, were lovely and the

reception following was superb. Both sets of parents participated in the ceremony, as did **Mike's** sister, who read the scripture. After munching happily at the reception we all gathered in anxious anticipation of the first dance (when the bride traditionally dances with her father). Speculation about who would dance was rife, and I'm quite sure I saw money changing hands. It is absolutely untrue that to settle the controversy both **Mike** and **Paul** waltzed around the room with their dads.

Have you heard that two of **Martina Navratilova's** ex-lovers, **Judy Nelson** and **Rita Mae Brown**, are now lovers themselves. **Rita Mae** has confirmed that the two are living together, but says they have no plans for a tell all book about **Martina**.



**Donna Yutzy and Laurie McBride sign as proud partners.**

Too bad.

In other celebrity news, **Sandra Bernhardt** stars on "Roseanne" as a lesbian, with **Morgan Fairchild** as her foof-ta-la-la girlfriend. I guess someone in Hollywood knows about lipstick lesbians!

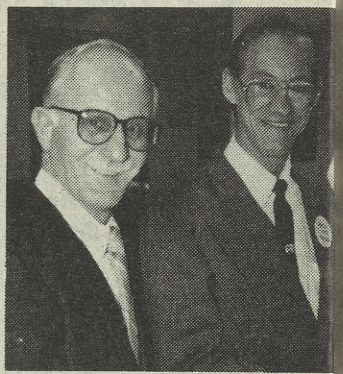
Yep, those Rainbow Realtors are at it again! **Jayne Rountree** was recognized De-

cember 10 by the **Sacramento Board of Realtors** for her part in founding Rainbow Real Estate. As **Jayne** says, "The price of freedom is vigilance."

True to her word, **Jayne, Dr. Karen Chaney, Doug Brown, and Anne Bersinger** met with **Mike Peterson**, the manager of the Natomas branch of **Bank of America**, to discuss the bank's support of the boy scouts. It seems that **Mr. Peterson** convinced our group that B of A gives only to the national chapter which does not discriminate against gays. Yeah, I guess its only the Russian branch of the boy scouts that discriminates...hmmmmmm.

**SAGA**, Sacramento's sports organization, will begin sponsoring concerts to raise funds in January. **Jim Sechelski**, **SAGA's** music coordinator, says

ners in a variety of categories. The **Sacramento AIDS Foundation** held a Christmas



**John and Sonny Helm.**

party Dec. 6 at **J.B. Hefferlin** house for hand to hand volunteers and their matches. The **Men's Chorus** performed and of course **Santa** (also known as **Rob Thorbin**) was there. Rumor has it **Rob** just puts on the red suit to get hot men to sit in his lap...and it works!

Congratulations to **Alan and Kirk** who took time out from their own Christmas partying to inform us that they'll be celebrating their first anniversary Jan. 9.

Congrats also to **Trendsetters** salon which has expanded by opening a second location. New designers **Jennifer** and **Todd** will work their magic with hair at the original locale next to **Muffins Etc.**

**Dr. Garret Madderra** has just struck out on his own and opened a new dental office at 2020 Hurley Way. The office is truly a family concern, employing **Garret's** sister as office manager. And **Garret's** partner **Tom Jackson** made most of the improvements, including a beautiful glass block wall behind the reception area, himself. Good luck to all of you! We're proud to have a successful doctor in the family!

**Apple Blossom**, a sophisticated new card and gift shop at 34th and Folsom is donating 1% of all sales through Christmas to the **Sacramento AIDS Foundation**. Make a point of stopping at **Apple Blossom** and thanking them for their help in supporting our community.

The **Sacramento Leather Association's** Mr. Sacramento Valley Leather Contest Nov. 21 at **Joseph's Town and Country** was jam packed with leathermen as **Bill Sherman, Dale Starbuck** and **John Yant** competed for the title. **John Yant** won, and was sashed by

continued on page 24

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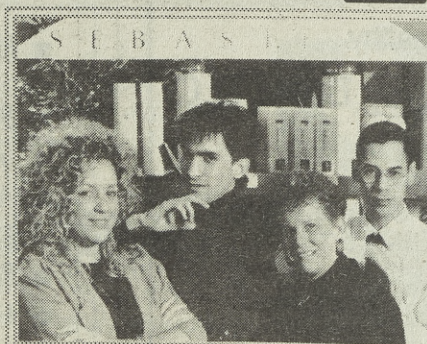
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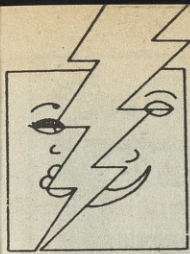
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# OFF THE EDGE

## How About a Bob Cook Dart Board?

by Stacy Selmants

Living in the closet is much like spending time in the bushes; it's dark, dismal, and full of despair. Laughs are rare and self-loathing is part of the landscape. Not the best lead for a humor column, but in this case, it fits.

We've all, unless we began cross-dressing in preschool, spent time denying or at least ignoring who we are, and who we love. And we all have different timetables, different calendars, of coming to terms with the unmistakable truths of our sexual and emotional destinies. For many of us, the concept of "outing" is a hateful punishment for those who have achieved political/economic success. And for others, it is a just revenge against those of us who have climbed the career ladder on the backs of the downtrodden-even though we may have, in a feeling of sexual largesse, bought these same people breakfast that same morning.

The ugly issue of closets and the people who painfully lurk in their shadows became a discussion item for the staff this last two weeks. The topic of gays in the military sparked it, along with the unanimous staff decision to shine a light on the internalized homophobia of a local media figure who has made ribald, unfunny statements about gays in the military, how AIDS is spread, as well as insensitive Jeffrey Dahmer jokes.

While we did collectively poo-hoo the idea of marketing a Bob Cook dart board, in time for the holidays, despite

its revenue potential, we all agreed that SOMETHING had to be done. A man who has seemingly continued a longstanding hobby of anthropology—judging by his intense interest in bushmen—is an interesting spokesman to discuss the problem of unchecked gay sex in the military.

I spent over an hour on the phone with the man. Oh, for purposes of convenience, let's just call him Bob (since that IS his name). I still am struck by both his resemblance to Roy Cohn and to Terry O'Neill. Cohn, the even-eviler twin to Commie-baiter Joe McCarthy, has already been skewered in these pages. Terry O'Neill was a high powered Republican operative under both Nixon and Reagan who denied to the end that he was gay, and who ultimately died of AIDS. (There should be a lesson here, but I may not be the best person to teach the lesson of avoiding denial.)

This month's bonus word is "tainted". For Bob, when confronted with his public stance (It's just a joke!) on gays

in the military, explained how "hard" it was for "professional" gays and lesbians to come out, since all the public sees are hard core leather guys and drag queens in the mainstream media. When asked whether he, as a gay man, would take the lead and show positive non-stereotyped images of gay people, Bob replied that by becoming an openly gay media figure, all his public statements would then become "tainted".

Tainted, according to Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, means, variously, "contaminated, corrupted, spoiled, infected".

These don't seem to be gay-positive images. And even now, Bob, in a moment of self-doubt, concedes that he, despite his self-avowed commitment to AIDS education/prevention, might not get his appointment to the board of the Sacramento AIDS Foundation.

He doesn't see the connection; instead, his public just doesn't "get it".

Many of us have lived in the closet, and have been victims of discrimination. Some of us have been beaten, some of us have been fired. As a magazine editor, I was fired many years

ago; my former bosses told referrals I was "queer" for many years until I found a new profession.

(Closets could still be a part of my reality; working at the latest ISSUE is not a job, but instead a perversely dedicated hobby. An insatiable love of writing and Kate's Polaroids showing me gently caressing a pair of friendly twin llamas are the main reasons I'm still on the staff box.)

Normally, Off the Edge shoots for a twisted slant on life's achievements and disappointments. And to be honest, this month we tried. We have

to quote this month's Theme Guy, Bob, who says that when he writes his commentaries, he "Tries to make a point without the sting."

We would like to respond, Bob, as you have to your audience, who might be offended, "Just get over it, it's just a joke." But unfortunately, there is a terrible sting to internalized homophobia. It's hard for us to swallow the rationale that "it's just a joke." Too many of us have wounds; too many of us have cleaned our closets; for too many of us, it just hurts far too much.



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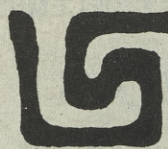
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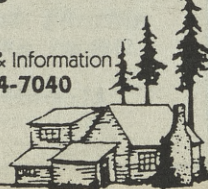
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## MILITARY

*continued from page 5*  
ing times."

Asked if he felt President-elect Clinton will keep his promise to lift the ban, Meinhold said that his personal feelings and his sources point to not "whether he will lift the ban... but after lifting it, how extensively he will change it."

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Meinhold's next court appearance on his complaint will be on Jan. 25 and at that point he expects to win the case.

Meinhold, however, is not alone in his battle. Others such as Lynn Strawbridge of Twin Spirits Veterans Association work with at least 30 other American Veteran's groups striving to overturn the military's anti-gay policy. A similar case has also drawn considerable attention.

On Dec. 7, the Supreme Court handed down another victory to lesbians and gays in the military, when it refused to extinguish Carolyn "Dusty" Pruitt's lawsuit against the Department of Defense.

The Pruitt case sits precariously while it appears that the court is taking a wait and see stance pending any moves by the executive branch of government in the new administration.

"More and more gay officers are coming out every day. The tide of the inevitable is washing upon the Pentagon," Strawbridge said. "I think Clinton will undo directive 1332.14 quickly after taking office. He will do this with one stroke of a pen if for no other reason to put it behind him... to free himself for more pressing business, like the economy."

## FIRE

*continued from page 5*

Consultation Center was similar to the fire that gutted the Feminist Women's Health Center in June, the fourth fire-related incident since 1989 for that small clinic. On August 18, four Molotov cocktails were hurled at a wall there (the owners plan to reopen soon). Lucy Galindo, a core member of S.A.C.C.O.R., pointed out that on the same night of August 18, arsonists threw a stinkbomb into a Chico clinic. "Following those attacks, there were chemical bombings in Detroit, Reno, and Oregon," Galindo said. "So they're very well organized."

Several months ago, antiabortion groups, including the infamous Operation Rescue, boasted that they were planning a national blockade, which never occurred because, Galindo explained, there was much in-fighting among the groups. "The pro-choice people have always been able to counter them," she said. "All of the publicity they've drawn and the press conference have backfired. But I'm afraid what they're doing is going deeper underground. I hate to say this, but I think it's going to get worse."

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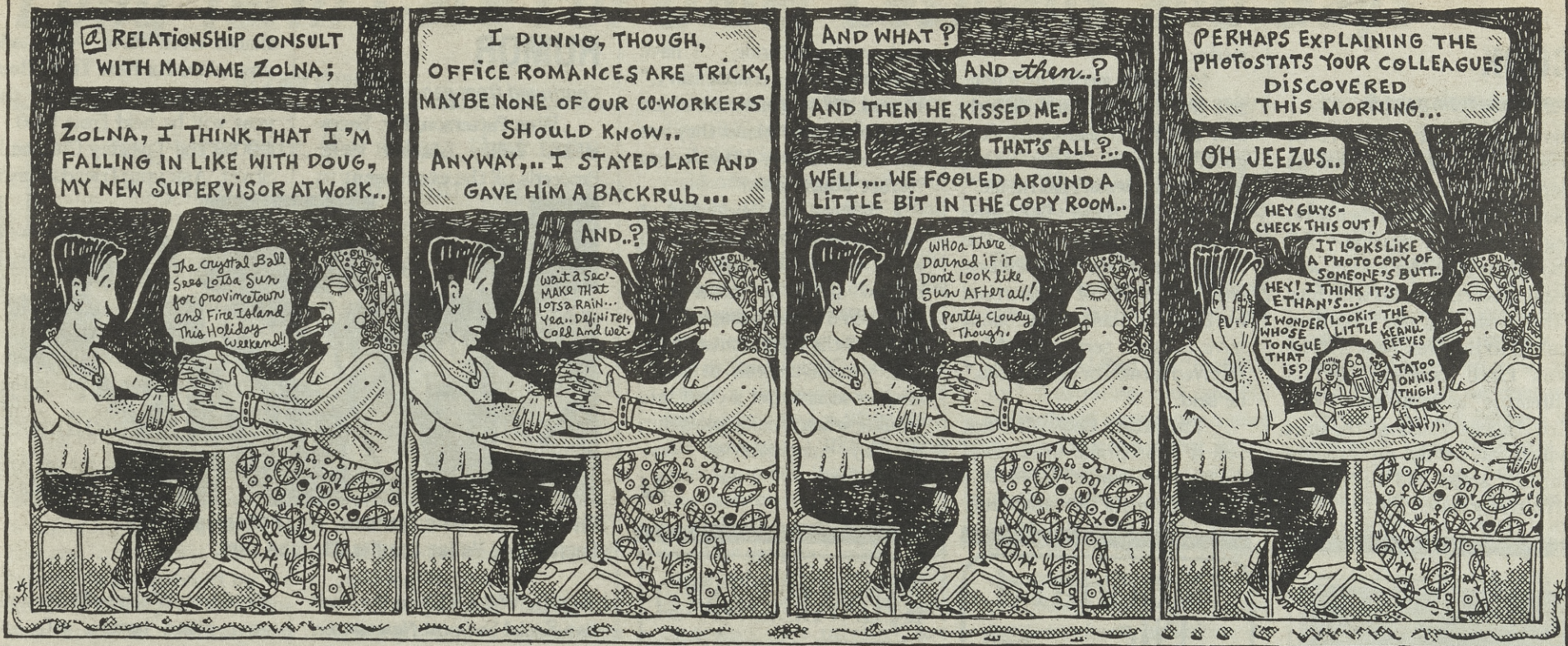
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## COOK

continued from page 9

his homosexuality. In 1979 he was fired from a position as deputy press secretary for Deukmejian who was then serving as attorney general. Although he says the reason was really never discussed with him, "the most popular" opinion leaked to the press was that he was fired because of his "lifestyle" as a gay man. The *Los Angeles Times* ran the story, which was picked up throughout the state, and Cook was effectively outed by the news

media.

Creating a media furor himself this time does not disturb Bob Cook. "It makes me feel good," he says. "I'd feel upset if somebody wasn't mad at me." He implies that the gay community's reaction to the November 14th commentary was blown out of proportion, by insisting that no one could have taken it seriously. "I've received no mail or phone calls," he said.

Therefore, Cook did not feel it appropriate to respond during the Channel 40 news to the objections of Christine Craft

and Laurie McBride. "I have never retracted a commentary," he said. "The commentaries are my personal opinions; they are not a news story. How do you retract your views?"

"I recall the time when, at the end of summer one year I said I wished that they would outlaw shorts in extra large sizes. We were swamped with mail and the receptionist at the time wouldn't speak to me. I always seem to get myself into trouble when I make jokes during my commentaries," concludes Cook.

## RUMOR

continued from page 20

Wes Patterson, Mr. Sacramento Valley Leather 1992. Proceeds of the event went to

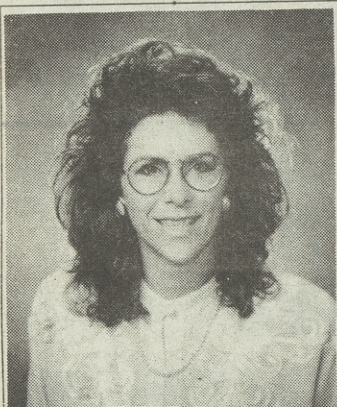
almost over, have you made your plans for **New Year's Eve?** The community party of the year will be held from 9:00 - 1:00 at the Tuesday Club on L Street. Ask your friends, they'll



Bill Sherman, Dale Starbuck, Wes Patterson and Mr. Sacramento Valley Leather 93, John Yant.

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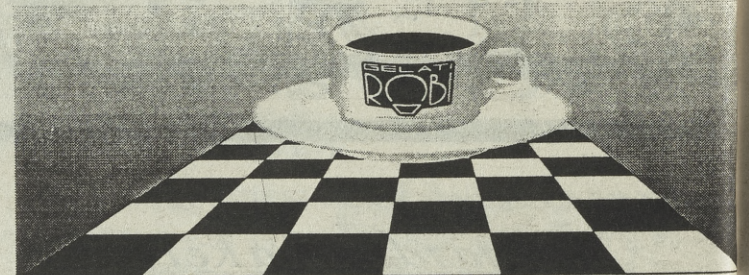
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# Long Term Care For Older Lesbians and Gays

by Lora Connelly

**L**ong-term care. To many, that term is synonymous with nursing homes. But long-term care really refers to the need for assistance in performing routine personal activities: bathing, dressing, getting in and out of bed, eating, etc. It's a need created by a chronic health condition as opposed to a short-term acute illness.

Increasingly, long-term care is beginning to be discussed in the gay community. But the interest is not sparked by the needs of older gays and lesbians. As AIDS survival rates improve, community health organizers are faced with developing health and social support systems for an entirely new long-term care group, persons with AIDS.

But long-term care should also be of growing importance to older gays and lesbians as well. On average, by age 65, the odds of ending up in a nursing home at least once are about 50-50 in the general population. That probability is even higher among those living alone and less well off, factors that may be more likely among older gays and lesbians. So, at a minimum, one out of every two older gays and lesbians will need long-term care assistance at some point in their lives. And the risk of requiring this care increases substantially with advanced age.

Many older people needing long-term care remain in their own home and rely on help from a significant other, friends, or paid help. In fact, for every person in a nursing home, it is estimated that there are at least three persons with equivalent needs, still living at home. But for some, especially those who live alone, the need for care will cause them to move into a residential or skilled nursing facility.

While finding quality yet affordable long-term care is an emotionally wrenching and pressing issue for many older

individuals and their families, it is likely to be even more difficult and challenging for older gays and lesbians.

The years of sexual discrimination in various aspects of their lives has caused many of today's older gays and lesbians to guard their privacy vehemently and avoid interactions which might lead to them being "found out." This reticence may play itself out in a number of ways. Older gays and lesbians may be unwilling to clearly discuss and arrange their home care needs with a social worker before being discharged from a hospital, and consequently go without care. They may be unwilling to seek out in-home assistance, fearing the homophobia they may encounter in a home care worker. Or they may avoid the hospital or nursing home care they may need because they fear their significant other will not be respected by hospital/nursing home staff.

Let's translate these suppo-

sitions into some real numbers. The 1990 census indicates that 110,000 Sacramento County residents are age 65 or over. Almost 10,000 of that group are age 85 or over. Using the assumption that 10% of the population is gay or lesbian, that translates into over 11,000 gays and lesbians age 65 and over in Sacramento County. And almost a thousand older gays and lesbians are age 85 or older. An estimated 1,700 of these older gays and lesbians needs long-term care.

Who is providing this care? Do older gays and lesbians use community services available to them, or do they do without to protect their privacy? Are older gays and lesbians more likely to end up in a nursing home because they live alone? Do older gays and lesbians experience prejudice in residential and long-term care facilities, or are they so closeted the staff never have a clue? Or do they feel that they must become more closeted when moving in to protect themselves?

In writing this final segment of this four part series on aging issues facing older gays and lesbians, I went on a search to find answers to these questions. With much assistance, I finally did find an older gay man who had been in a nursing home and a lesbian whose significant other had also been in a home. Both refused to be interviewed. I contacted ministers, social workers, and others I thought might have known

older gays and lesbians who'd needed and received long-term care. They didn't know anyone. Where are those 1,700 older gays and lesbians needing long-term care in Sacramento? They're invisible.

And a community whose elders are invisible is not complete...

While I find this "invisibility" frustrating and possibly indicative of a great unmet need in our community that is not realized because it has no voice, gay and lesbian aging issues are beginning to be raised. A few recent events indicate this new awareness. In June, the American Society on Aging (ASA), an 8,000 member organization for those involved serving older people, sponsored a one-day symposium on gay and lesbian aging issues. Nearly 300 people attended. At ASA's upcoming annual meeting this March in Chicago, a mini-conference on gay and lesbian aging issues has been added. This Fall, the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce added gay and lesbian aging issues to its platform and is co-sponsoring the upcoming ASA mini-conference in Chicago. Since attending the June ASA conference, the vice president the California region of the American Baptist Homes for the Aged has actively lobbied his professional association, the CA Association of Homes for the Aging (CAHA), to begin including educational forums at their annual meeting to sensitize staff to the issues

older gays and lesbians face in entering a residential or long-term care facility. He is organizing the first such session for CAHA's upcoming annual meeting this Spring.

Hopefully, all of these efforts will result in greater awareness of the issues facing older gays and lesbians and improved access to social, legal, and health care services when they are needed. Perhaps with outreach, these seemingly "invisible" older gays and lesbians will be drawn out, and come to experience the support available to them from the caring gay and lesbian community here in Sacramento.

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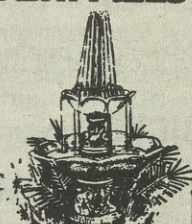
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